



THE  
JEWISH  
DAILY

# FORWARD

SEPTEMBER 1983

ELUL / TISHREI 5743 / 5744

## High Holy Days — 5744

**A**S THE SOUND OF THE SHOFAR calls Jews around the world to mark the beginning of the New Year, 5744, a unique yet established event will be repeated in the Bay Area: our Congregation will gather for the 7th consecutive year to celebrate and worship together on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In keeping with tradition, there will be no ticket charge for members nor for the general public. Services will be led by the Ritual Committee, and we will be using our new Machzor for Yom Kippur for the first time, complementing our Rosh Hashanah Machzor which premiered last year.

All services will be held at the Unitarian Center, Main Sanctuary, Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco. See the High Holy Day schedule on page 5.

We look forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year, and we hope that all of our members and friends will join us for these services.



etch Woodcut, 19th Century C.E.

### "A Home of Our Own"

## Notes from the Fundraising Front

**A** TRIP TO THE SHA'AR ZAHAV MAIL BOX these days is enough to warm a poor fundraiser's heart! Box 5640 overflows with checks and money orders — large and small — and letters — long and short. The letters have included a "Mazel" jotted on a piece of notepaper stapled to a check and a "good luck" note wrapped around a money order. We've even received a letter from Australia asking how to help us, along with some rather moving messages:

*"I am very happy and excited at the prospect of a permanent home for the Congregation. I myself with the help of my new lover have recently purchased 'our' home... all our energy and finances are being directed to this home. We have pretty much cut out dining out and cut back in other ways to meet our goal. I am enclosing a token check to help with the Congregation's goal... hopefully when our mortgage payments are not as draining, I will be able to participate more. For now — G-d Bless."*

Thank you so much. Your personal sacrifice joins many others.

A most intriguing piece arrived from Scarsdale, New York. In response to my requests to solicit help from relatives, friends, etc., one of our congregants wrote the following to her/his family's shul:

*"Dear Rabbi Stern: If you know anyone who would like to support Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's campaign to acquire a home — the purchase of a temple building — please pass the enclosed information along. Please don't take it personally that I am sending this anonymously. It's just that I'm not completely comfortable signing my name. But I have happily been a WRT member. Much love and health. Thank you."*

That note was returned with this reply:

*"Dear \_\_\_\_\_, You needn't be uncomfortable. You are who you are. All good things to you. Rabbi Jack Stern." (He enclosed a \$100 check.)*

Is it possible that these words from that New York rabbi propel us into a new era? A time when we can let our pride shine from the tallest buildings. When we can yell it from the rooftops of San Francisco to Chicago, New York, London, Jerusalem — everywhere — and maybe have it heard and felt.

(continued on page 4)



## Rabbi Search Committee Convenes

**T**HE EXCITING SEARCH for a congregational rabbi began last month with the first official meeting of the Search Committee.

With Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim as co-chairs, the committee includes congregants Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Funk, Mark Mendelow, Cheryl Orvis, Sharyn Saslafsky, and Joanne.

The committee will initially focus on the development of a rabbinic job description. This task will be greatly informed by the wishes of the congregation as determined through last Spring's membership survey. The job description, as well as other policy matters, will be brought by the committee to the Va'ad for review and approval.

In keeping with the recommendations of the UAHC, the Committee's sessions will be closed meetings, with progress reports issued through articles in the *Forward* and at Va'ad meetings. The most serious regard for confidentiality will be observed in order to respect the privacy of applicants who may currently hold pulpits which they don't wish to jeopardize by a non-confidential application process.

Our sibling congregation in Los Angeles, Beth Chayim Chadishim, has recently engaged, on a part-time basis, Rabbi Janet Marder as its first fully-ordained rabbi. Beth Chayim Chadishim has willingly shared with us much of the work and experience of its search committee, which should prove a considerable advantage in our own efforts.

No matter how long it takes, the Search Committee's commitment is to present to the Va'ad and Congregation that candidate who is best qualified to serve us all.

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All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Alan Schrager and Barry Siegel (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

The display advertising rate is \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more insertions. The Advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. Ads should be camera ready. Any advertising that requires typesetting, camera and/or artwork is subject to a one-time production charge. Payment must accompany order and should be sent to the Synagogue Office, marked attention *Forward* advertising. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office 921-7612.

## Join Us on Sukkot

On Wednesday night, September 21st, we will be celebrating Sukkot, the Festival of Booths. Please join us at the home of Paul Cohen and Allan Gold, at 7:30 p.m., for a short service, a potluck supper, and a joyous evening in our Sukkah. Please bring a potluck dish to share. The address is 424 Central Avenue (near Masonic, just off Fell) in San Francisco. For further information, please call Leslie (929-1444) or the Synagogue office (921-7612).

## Mike's Column

**"T**HANK GOODNESS THIS ENDED SO SOON," Don Albert said after a very long Va'ad meeting. "This is my fifth Sha'ar Zahav committee meeting this week!"

Five meetings in a week. What a wonderful example of the commitment that Don — and so many others — have shown throughout the whole building campaign! Those of us on the "inside" know how much Don has done. And Irene, who put aside much of her paid professional work to work almost full time on fundraising for our "Home of Our Own." And Allan Berenstein, who Friday night after Friday night has opened the building, set it up for services (sometimes with help, sometimes alone), taken things down and returned it to pristine conditions after services, and dealt with the current owners throughout the week, keeping everyone on an even keel, maintaining a good relationship between "them" and "us."

How do you say thanks to people like that? And to Walt Leiss, who is so generous with *everything*, including the most precious of commodities, his time.

Cheryl once told me that this will be the hardest column of the year to write. There are just too many people to thank and sometimes the words don't really convey the gratitude we all feel. What exactly do you say to Nancy Meyer and the Women's Chavurah about their blood drive? Sure the Chavurah is a place where the women of the Congregation and their friends can be together to have a good time. But under Nancy's leadership it has become so much more — for all of us!

The Machzor Committee (Garry Koenigsberg, prop.) has written and produced a 185-page book in two languages. That book is the Yom Kippur Machzor and is full of the best of Jewish liturgy: there are prayers and poetry that challenge the intellect and move the soul. If there is anything that will convince us that Judaism is still a vibrant, exciting faith, full of relevance for our lives, this Machzor is it. Well done, old friends. Very well done indeed.

And to Leslie and the "Empty Ritual Committee," thank you for the beautiful services the past year, and for the life cycle ceremonies, and for all you have taught me and helped me experience. May we all have many, many years of "God-Wrestling" together.

Alita and Eric, and all of you who staffed the membership table and worked on the booklets and encouraged people to join the Congregation, thank you.

Leila, for so many things — for newsletter editing, ad vice giving, Shofar blowing, rabbi searching — for all these and more, thank you.

(continued on page 7)



# Tiku Bachodesh Shofar... Some Thoughts on Rosh Hashanah

*"Sound the shofar on the new moon, at the appointed time for our day of festival; for it is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob, Leah and Rachel"* — Rosh Hashanah Machzor

Although the shofar is sounded on other occasions, it is most often associated with Rosh Hashanah. When we begin thinking of the High Holidays, it is the sound of the shofar that reverberates in our ears. The Jews of ancient Babylonia also heard the shofar before Rosh Hashanah, but for them it was not nostalgia, but the real thing. They began the custom, still observed in some Jewish communities, of blowing the shofar every day during Elul, the last month of the year, as a reminder of the coming of the Days of Awe. Many traditional reasons are given for the blowing of shofar on Rosh Hashanah: a reminder of the ram that was sacrificed by Abraham in place of his son Isaac, a precursor to the day of judgment, a reminder of the war-alarm that was sounded when the Temple was destroyed. A beautiful legend is told by the followers of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidic Jewry. It is said that the Baal Shem Tov had instructed a shofar blower in the mystical meanings of the shofar blasts, but that on Rosh Hashanah, the blower forgot them all, and broke down in tears. The Baal Shem Tov comforted him, saying that the mystical meanings were keys to the many doors of heaven, but if the keys were lost, one could break the doors down with an axe, and the blower's heartbroken sobs were the axe.

*"In the seventh month, on the first day of the month there will be a sacred day of rest to you, for remembrance and for sounding the shofar, a holy assembly."* — Leviticus 23:23-24

The first reference to a festival on the first of Tishri resembles nothing like the Rosh Hashanah we know today. It was a sabbatical observance, indicating that the seventh month was to be treated like the seventh day, as a sabbath, a day of rest and renewal.

*"And Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation, both men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month"*

— Nehemiah 8:2

After the Babylonian captivity, when the Jews returned to Jerusalem, Ezra and Nehemiah chose Rosh Hashanah as the day upon which they read the Torah to the people. It is said that the people wept when they heard the Law, and realized how far they had drifted from the way of life it prescribed. But they were told to rejoice in God's holy day, to eat rich food and drink sweet wine, and to share with those who had none. Possibly because of this biblical passage, sweet foods and drinks have become associated with Rosh Hashanah. So, the next time your Aunt Sadie gives you an apple dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah, and tells you to have a "zissen yuhr" (sweet year) she is keeping a Jewish tradition that dates back to before the building of the Second Temple.

*"On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed..."*

— Musaf service, Rosh Hashanah

The celebration of Rosh Hashanah as a holiday proclaiming God as the Ruler of the world, and our rededication to serving God began in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, but the concept of Rosh Hashanah as a day of judgment came some 700 years later, in about 200 C.E. The Mishnah was in the process of being written, and the rabbis resolved that God passes judgment upon all humans either by renewing life, or passing a sentence of death. About 300 years after that, the Talmud added the metaphor of the Book of Life, that God writes on Rosh Hashanah who shall live and who shall die, but, being a God of mercy, does not seal the judgment until Yom Kippur, ten days later. This forms the basis for the Un'saneh Tokef, the prayer quoted in part above. This prayer is attributed to Rabbi Amnon of Mayence, who is said to have written it as he died for Kiddush Ha-Shem — Sanctification of God's Name.

*"Hayom Harat Olam — Today is the birthday of the world"*

What is Rosh Hashanah's significance today, as we begin the 5,744th year of the Jewish calendar? Some of us find it difficult to accept all the monarchical images of God as presented in the traditional machzor, and the simplistic idea that the good shall live and the bad shall die. However, who of us doesn't need the concept of renewal, of being able to let go of mistakes, regrets and wrongful acts, and begin again? Rosh Hashanah offers the opportunity to examine ourselves, to take a long, solemn look at who we are — and then, like the Jews of the Babylonian captivity, to wipe away our tears and celebrate the birthday of the world.

## OUR NEW HOME!

201 Caselli Avenue



Nearest Muni:

#33 Ashbury at 18th & Danvers

(The #33 Ashbury operates on a 20-minute headway)



## Fundraising (continued from page 1)

I firmly believe that this Campaign is accomplishing so much more than raising \$240,000. It's letting everybody know that we are *very serious* about who we are and what we want — not only for ourselves in our time but for those who *will* come after us. We, too, must move ourselves beyond the moment and know that our accomplishments today will reverberate around the world and live on as a monument to our progeny.

G-d Bless you all and keep those checks and letters coming.

\* \* \*

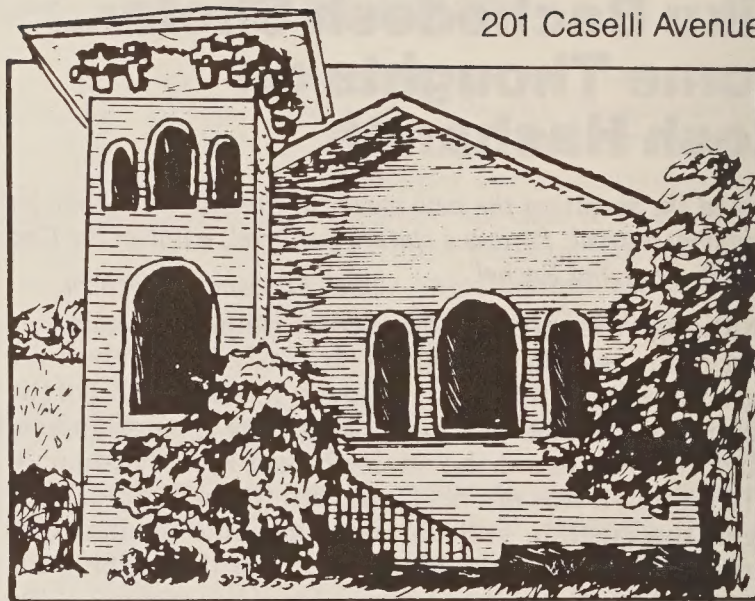
We would especially like to recognize this month all members who have made pledges in support of our building campaign — for whatever amount. Here then, in alphabetical order, are all of you to whom we owe thanks:

Donald W. Albert  
Harvey Bartnoff  
Alvin H. Baum, Jr.  
Bart Benderoff  
Barry Benenson  
Allan Berenstein  
Leslie Bergson  
Joan Blazewick  
Leonard Brill  
Ralph Buchalter  
Larry Chandler  
Daniel Chesir  
Paul Cohen  
Aaron Cooper  
Steven Cronenwalt  
James Dobkins  
Steven Elman  
Jonathan Funk  
Ed Gabay, D.D.S.  
David Gellman  
Allan Gold  
Brad Gould, M.D.  
Janis Greenberg  
Steven Greenberg  
Ted Greenberg  
Susan Greenspan  
Roger Gross  
Bruce Hansen  
Ann Hartstein/  
Debra Silverman  
Laurie Hauer/  
Mercedes Laurencin  
Hal Heller  
Andy Hirsch  
Dvora Honigstein  
David Hyman  
Frank Hyman

Richard Inlander/  
Ted Mendonca  
Betty Kalis  
Bruce Katz  
Eric Keitel  
Alyce Kimmerling  
Stephen Klein  
Chris Knepper  
Garry Koenigsberg  
Duff Kreitzberg  
Walter Leiss  
Robert Levy  
Ron Lezell  
Shirley Liberman  
Marc Lipschutz  
Michael Lipson  
Alan Lubliner  
Janice Macomber  
Jack Mann  
Rabbi Ben Marcus  
Frank Martinez  
Janice Medina  
Mark Mendelow  
Nancy Meyer  
Marilyn Miller  
Charles Norton  
Gordon O.  
Irene Ogus  
Cheryl Orvis  
Harold P.  
Harold Parker  
Alice Perlman  
John Petry  
Bernard Pechter  
Leila Raim/  
Catherine Wisniewski

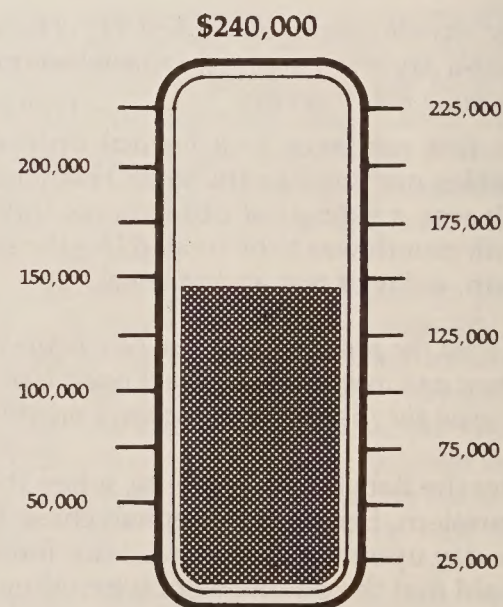
Laurie Radovsky  
Mike Rankin  
Arthur Reichstadt  
Herman Rifkin  
David Ring  
Robert Rockland  
Steven Rosenberg  
Alita Rosenfeld  
Gerald Rosenstein  
Tom Rothgiesser/  
George Lucas  
Yolanda S.  
Micah Sabraw  
Sharyn Saslafsky  
Cynthia Schorr  
Alan Schrager  
Neil Sechan  
Dan Serbins  
Talia Shafir  
Ron Shore  
Daniel Sonnenfeld  
Shelley Spiro  
David Stein/  
Alex Ingersoll  
Nanci Stern/  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Tat  
Sam Thal  
Dana Vinicoff  
Ralph Vissell  
Mark Weisman  
Wendy Weiss  
Ron Wolberg  
Nina Wouk  
Michael Zimmerman  
Joanne

201 Caselli Avenue



## Our Goal

A HOME OF OUR OWN!  
**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav**  
דבית שזן



Cash and Pledges Raised  
Caselli Avenue Building Fund

"Adonai has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary.  
Be strong and do it."—I Chronicles (28:10)

If you would like your name on this list, please call me at 824-7031 about pledging your support to our building campaign as well.

— Irene Ogus  
Chair, Fundraising  
Building Committee Campaign



# אלול - תשרי 5744 - 5743

SEPTEMBER 1983

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regular Friday night services are held at 8:15 at the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, 201 Caselli Avenue (corner of Danvers).				אב 1	אב 2	אב 3
אב 4	אב 5	אב 6	אב 7 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.	אב 8 Rosh Hashanah Service 10 a.m.	אב 9 Rosh Hashanah	אב 10 Women's Chavurah Blood Drive
אב 11 Fast of Gedaliah Observed	אב 12 Newsletter Deadline	אב 13	אב 14	אב 15	אב 16 Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.	אב 17 Yom Kippur Service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
אב 18	אב 19 Va'ad Meeting	אב 20	אב 21 Sukkot Service and Potluck	אב 22 Sukkot	אב 23 Sukkot	אב 24
אב 25	אב 26 Finance Committee	אב 27 East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846	אב 28	אב 29 Shemini Atzeret Ritual Committee	אב 30 Simchat Torah	

## Ritual Calendar

Friday, Sept. 9	<b>Torah:</b> Nitzavim-Vayelech, Deut. 29:9-31:30 <b>Haftarah:</b> Isaiah 61:10-63:9 Mike Rankin and Dana Vinicoff, Services  <b>Rosh Hashanah</b> — See High Holy Day Schedule	Friday, Sept. 30  <b>Simchat Torah</b> <b>Torah:</b> Bereshit, Gen. 1:1-6:8 <b>Haftarah:</b> Isaiah 42:5-43:11 Ritual Committee and Friends, Services
Friday Sept. 9	<b>Shabbat Shuvah</b> <b>Torah:</b> Ha'azinu, Deut. 32:1-52 <b>Haftarah:</b> Hosea 14:2-10, Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-17 Daniel Chesir, Services  <b>Yom Kippur</b> — See High Holy Day Schedule	<b>High Holy Day Schedule</b>  <b>Rosh Hashanah</b> Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m. Evening Services  Thursday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. Morning Services  <b>Yom Kippur</b> Friday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre Services  Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. Morning Services  Saturday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. Yiskar and Ne'ilah Services
Wednesday, Sept. 21	<b>Sukkot</b> Service and Potluck Dinner 424 Central Avenue, San Francisco Ritual Committee and Friends, Services	All High Holy Day Services will be held at the Unitarian Center, Main Sanctuary, Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco. The Unitarian Center is wheelchair accessible, and sign language interpretation will be available.
Friday, Sept. 23	<b>Hol Ha-Moed</b> (inter. day of) <b>Sukkot</b> <b>Torah:</b> Ex. 33:12-34:26; Num. 29:17-22 <b>Haftarah:</b> Ezekiel 38:18-39:16 Marc Lipshutz and Steve Greenberg, Services	



## **Our Delegates' Report**

# **World Congress Meeting**

**T**HE DELEGATES TO THE WORLD CONGRESS of Gay and Lesbian Jewish organizations overwhelmingly agreed to a new organizational structure at the annual meeting of the group, which took place on August 3rd and 4th in Miami, Florida. The very productive meetings preceded the 8th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, which took place on August 4th through 7th, at the Holiday Inn — Brickell Point, Miami, Florida. Congregation Etz Chaim (Metropolitan Community Synagogue) was the hosting organization for these events.

Eleven member groups sent delegates to the meetings, including two representatives from Sha'ar Zahav, Leslie Bergson and Eric Keitel.

The delegates attending this year's meetings worked very hard to establish a new structure that would provide more efficiency to the organization than in previous years. After many hours of discussion, the following organizational structure was approved:

1. The formation of a Board of Directors — with one board member to be selected by each group that belongs to the World Congress. The Board would serve as the policy making body with each board member being the liaison to his/her group.

2. The creation of the position of President of the Board of Directors, who would be selected from the Board of Directors to serve as a liaison to the Executive Director (see below).

3. The creation of the position of Executive Director, who would also be selected by the Board of Directors and would function as the chief administrator of the organization.

After approving this new organizational structure, an interim Board of Directors was chosen from among the delegates attending the meeting. Eric Keitel will represent Sha'ar Zahav. The President of the Board of Directors will be Stan Notkin (BCC — Los Angeles), and the Executive Director will be Aaron Cooper from Sha'ar Zahav.

The meetings then turned towards our goals and objectives for the coming year. It was decided to concentrate our efforts on strengthening ourselves internally, and helping our member groups realize the importance and viability of the newly re-structured World Congress. The following goals and objectives were established:

- To provide solidarity among member Gay and Lesbian organizations.
- To promote leadership and thereby encourage the participation of both Gay and Lesbian Jews within the World Congress and the member organizations.
- To provide information to the public.
- To establish a network of communications among the member Gay and Lesbian Jewish organizations.
- To provide for mutual assistance in achieving successful activities within member organizations.
- To extend assistance in the formation of new Gay and/or Lesbian Jewish organizations.
- To encourage outreach to both the Jewish and Gay/Lesbian communities.

- To coordinate arrangements for the International Conferences of Gay and Lesbian Jews, incorporating procedures which encourage input from unaffiliated individuals in all stages of planning.

It is only with the interest of all of the individuals working with the World Congress that it can attain these goals and objectives, and after two days of work, all of the delegates attending had a very positive feeling about the coming year.

The next annual meeting will be held next summer, with a West Coast city as the host (Seattle is the frontrunner). Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be selecting its representative to serve on the Board of Directors of the World Congress within the month. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Synagogue office.

— Eric Keitel

## **World Congress Seeks Helpers**

A Jewish lesbian in New Haven, part of a small Jewish women's chavurah, only this year *discovered* that organized groups of gay and lesbian Jews are alive and well in over 25 cities. She was thrilled to attend the 8th International Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews.

A gay Jewish man in Akron, Ohio receives newsletters from several gay Jewish groups, which he values as his only link to "his People."

Isolated Jewish gay men and women — in cities large and small — need to know that our movement is strong and growing. They need to hear from those of us who are fortunate to have support networks — congregations, organizations, chavurot. They need to know that it is possible to be gay and Jewish, beautifully and richly possible.

And those of us who *are* part of this movement need to know about the work of our sibling groups: to exchange formulas for growth and development, to share the products of our labors, and simply to feel one as a People.

The World Congress of Gay & Lesbian Jewish Organizations has these goals in mind. This year, the work of the World Congress will be centralized in San Francisco, under the executive directorship of Aaron Cooper. Aaron seeks people with a little (or a lot of) time to participate in disseminating news of gay and lesbian Jewry to the four corners of the world. Please call him at 821-4257 to participate and for further information.

## **Sha'ar Zahav Wins Award**

The Irwin Memorial Blood Bank has awarded CSZ the Community Protection Award, for achieving 25% member participation in blood donations during 1982-83. Our Congregation has had an account at the blood bank for several years. In the past year, the Women's Chavurah has taken responsibility for maintaining this account due to the stringent regulations regarding eligible donors. We are pleased and proud to receive this recognition; our thanks to all our members and friends who gave their time, effort, and blood. Our plans for future blood drives continue with the next drive scheduled for Saturday, September 10; see related article.



## The Raffle — Update

**H**URRY! WE MUST ACT FAST! Only a few weeks remain before the October 9 drawing for the 1969 Silver Shadow Rolls Royce. As of presstime, we have sold about 500 tickets. We have a long way to go to reach our goal of selling all 1,500 tickets, which will represent a critical \$75,000 phase of our building campaign.

Your help is needed now! Sale of these raffle rickets is an ideal way to solicit contributions (at \$50 a ticket) from the general Jewish and gay/lesbian communities, *and from your friends and family*, both here and "back East."

Use the sample raffle tickets to send to your friends and family. Ask them to please contribute to your congregation by completing the sample, and sending it to the Congregation (P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101) with their check made payable to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Building Campaign. An official ticket will then be made out and the stub mailed to them.

Enclose a copy of our Building Campaign brochure, which contains endorsements, photographs and supportive quotes from well-known Bay Area community leaders, including Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Sala Burton, State Senator Milton Marks and Rabbi Morris Hershman.

Brochures, more sample tickets or the raffle tickets themselves can be obtained at Friday night services or by calling the Congregation office (921-7612) or Irene Ogus (824-7031); raffle tickets can also be obtained from Joe Pareti (989-8350). Donations to the Campaign are, of course, tax deductible.

Let's all get out and do our part to make our home and community building a reality.

## Women's Chavurah News

**BLOOD DRIVE:** On September 10th we will sponsor our second blood drive at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. The first was such a success that we are happy to do it again. Such a mitzvah to start the New Year! We will again have our own Oneg, thanks to some of the wonderful men in our Congregation and their terrific culinary talents. There will again be "candy strippers" to supply hand-holding and foot massages, and your choice of music played on "Walkpersons" (which are politically-correct Walkman stereos). In the spirit of mishpucha, we hope to see many of our sisters at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, corner Turk/Masonic, between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. If possible, please call the Synagogue office (921-7612) by Wednesday, September 7 if you can participate.

**PLANNING MEETING:** October 5th is the date for our next planning session. We on the committee really need more of our sisters to become involved in the planning of upcoming events. Our sense of sisterhood is strong, as is our commitment to our entire congregational family. Our events are joyful, important, and well attended. Won't you please consider becoming part of the committee that makes all this happen??? The meeting will be held in the home of Nanci Stern, 4665 18th Street (near Danvers) at 7:00 p.m. Call Nanci (863-5081) or the synagogue office for more information. Or, better still... COME JOIN US!!!

## Mike's Column *(continued from page 2)*

Aaron, you were a one-person oneg committee for months. If you could only convince Eric that handling oneg is a collateral duty of the recorder! Thanks, Aaron, from all those of us who noshed every Shabbat without thinking about how the food got onto the table, and for keeping us from having to go to a "bring your own" oneg, which we still might have to do it someone doesn't volunteer to chair the oneg committee soon.

Betty, Sam, Rabbi Ben, thanks for all your work with Bikur Cholim. Nothing we do is more important than reaching out to those in need, and you do it so well.

Cheryl, Daniel, Paul, leaders emeriti, you've offered me good advice which was so valuable when I was bright enough to take it. Thanks for all your help.

Alan Shrager and Jerry Rosenstein, you above all know how valuable your computers were to us. We couldn't begin to afford what you've given us for free.

Allan Gold and his dancing pushke pitches! Allan, you could have been a star in the Catskills! Alas, another career nipped in the bud. And Allan, thanks for keeping us fiscally sound this year, and for creating a budget that even a fiscal illiterate like me could understand.

We do good work in our Congregation, but not everything we do is work. A lot of it is just plain fun. Thanks to Ron Lezell, superstar, program organizer, finder of hidden sports talent (for some of us, deeply hidden), and also thanks to Ron and Sharyn for your work on the public relations part of the building campaign. The publicity you've gotten us was invaluable!

What Ron began, Mark Mendelow continues — the Congregational semi-pro volleyball championships, the Castro Street Fair, and all the good events to come, all organized by Mark. Except, of course, the Congregation's major participation in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration, which David Stein coordinated for us. And now David is treasurer, keeper of the purse, and giver of pushke pitches. An organization survives and grows by bringing in new leadership to support and eventually supplant the old. New leadership we certainly have.

Harvey, Dana, Peter — your guitars added so much to our services. Elliot and Yo, your cameras helped us keep our memories, and brought our story to the broader community.

Frank, thanks for the great job with the fundraising party (and for nixing my suggestion for late harvest Mogan David as a wine selection! "But thank you for sharing," he said).

Alex, the frustration level in chairing the newsletter committee is probably just one small step below the frustration level in chairing oneg. We're always going to get the copy to you on time — and we never do. But despite all the difficulties, you've done a terrific job. Thank you for that.

And thanks, too, to all of you who should be mentioned in this column and aren't, but who keep plugging away unselfishly and unrecognized. If you wonder what makes this Congregation so special, look around you!

L'Shanah Tovah,  
Shalom,

— Mike



## September Happy Birthdays!

1	Tom Rothgiesser	15	Elliot Schneck
2	Jeff Friedman	19	Rob Tat
2	Simma Lieberman	21	Steven Cronenwalt
2	Hy Rifkin	21	Laurie Radovsky
7	Al Baum	27	Ralph Vissell
9	Mark Weisman	28	Dan Serbins
11	Andrea Land	29	Jay Johnson

## September Yahrzeits

- 2 (24 Elul) Yetta Skolnik, Grandmother of Hal Heller
- 4 Abraham Parker, Father of Harold Parker
- 5 Lillian Schrager, Mother of Alan Schrager
- 12 John Lerse, Uncle of Carol Hoffman
- 18 (11 Tishri) Francis Bornstein, Sister of Louis Bornstein and Aunt of Richard Bornstein
- 18 (11 Tishri) Jacob Leiss, Father of Walt Leiss
- 23 Fannie Stein, Mother of David Stein
- 23 Mary Moss, Mother of David Moss

## July/August Va'ad Reports

**JULY 25th:** The first meeting of the newly installed Va'ad. Mike Rankin presented his first report as President. David Stein made his first Treasurer's report, and several committee reports were heard. It was announced that Rabbi Ben Marcus will chair Bikkur Cholim, Joan Blazewick will assist in the operations/house committee at Caselli Avenue, David Gellman will coordinate High Holiday Services and Mark Mendelow will coordinate our participation in the Castro Street Fair. Additionally, it was decided that we would partially sponsor two delegates to the World Congress meeting in Miami: Leslie Bergson and Eric Keitel will represent us there. Mike presented the names of Don Albert and Leila Raim to fill the two existing Va'ad vacancies; both were approved unanimously. The final composition of the Rabbi Search Committee was approved, with Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim as Co-chairs.

**AUGUST 15th:** President, Treasurer, and several committee reports were heard. Policy regarding sale of our High Holiday prayer books to other organizations was discussed. Mike Rankin was selected as our candidate for the Board of the UAHC. The need for four delegates to attend the UAHC convention in Houston was discussed. Those delegates will be selected at the next Va'ad meeting, and interested members should contact the office or a Va'ad member before that meeting. Members of the Va'ad will continue to share responsibility for Onegs, until we can find someone willing to chair this committee.

The next Va'ad meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, 6:30 p.m., at 201 Caselli Avenue.

*Ed. Note:* Because of the *Forward* deadline, the July Va'ad report did not appear in the August issue.

## UAHC Delegates

The Congregation is hoping to send four delegates and four alternates to the national convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations being held in Houston, November 9-14. If you are interested in being a delegate, please call the Synagogue office (921-7612) and give your name to Susan. Delegates and alternates will be selected by the Va'ad at the September meeting.

## Jewish Feminist Conference

The 1983 Jewish Feminist Conference will be held on Sat.-Sun., September 24-25, at Berkeley High School, and all Jewish women are invited to attend. The conference will deal with many aspects of Jewish identity and feminism. The conference fee will be on a sliding scale; no one will be turned away for lack of money. The site has wheelchair access, child care and ASL interpretation will be provided, and large chairs are available. Large type material and taped information will also be available.

The general theme of the conference will be Looking Inward/Reaching Outward. The first day will focus on more personal aspects of Judaism/Feminism. The second day will mainly deal with the aspects of Jewish women in relation to their communities and the non-Jewish world. A special area of concern will be aspects of Middle Eastern culture, history and politics. Please note that as part of this conference, the Congregation's Women's Chavurah will be leading a panel discussion on the relationship of women and the synagogue. For further information, call 415-664-0181.

## Classified Ads

**TWO OPERA TICKETS** -- The Midsummer Marriage, Saturday, October 29, 8 p.m., Dress Circle seats K9 & K11. \$36.50 each. David & Alex (648-4818).

**Feminist therapist sensitive to all issues including:** physical disabilities, chronic illness, and death and dying. Nanci Stern, in San Francisco, 863-5081. Sliding scale fees.

**FOR SALE** -- 1982 Honda Civic 1500DX, 5 speed, many options, 16,000 mi, asking \$6,200. Very clean and zippy! Call David & Alex (648-4818).

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